



HOME BUILDERS ASSOCIATION OF CONNECTICUT, INC.
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March 6, 2009

To: Senator Eric Coleman, Co-Chairman
Representative Brendan Sharkey, Co-Chairman
Members of the Planning & Development Committee

From: Bill Ethier, CAE, Chief Executive Officer

Re: Raised Bill 6595, AAC the State Conservation and Development Policies Plan

The HBA of Connecticut is a professional trade association with almost one thousand, three hundred (1,300) member firms statewide, employing tens of thousands of Connecticut citizens. Our members are residential and commercial builders, land developers, remodelers, general contractors, subcontractors, suppliers and those businesses and professionals that provide services to this diverse industry. We also created and administer the Connecticut Developers Council, a professional forum for the land development industry in the state.

The HBA of Connecticut supports delaying the implementation of the next state plan of conservation and development (POCD).

We have been working with OPM, DEP and CCAPA to address some of the issues revolving around how state agencies, particularly DEP, use the state POCD to make permit and funding decisions that directly and indirectly affect economic development and municipal planning efforts. In particular, we are hoping to see in the next state POCD more clarity and direction in how the eight designated areas in the locational guide map, which is part of the state POCD, are interpreted. We also hope to see a closer connection between the locational guide map and the state POCD text so that neither will be able to be used in isolation. And, we have discussed an alternative to the Continuing Legislative Committee on State Planning and Development that may tie into the next version of the state POCD. **The extension of the next implementation date will afford more time to complete this work and make appropriate recommendations to this committee and the legislature.**

On section 4 of the bill, we do not know enough about the Climate Change Action Plan to adequately comment at this time or support including the state's agreement to same within the state POCD. On section 5, there appears to be a typo at line 107: "2012" should be "2016" to be consistent with line 82. And, we are not sure what the statutory reference is regarding subsection (s) of section 8-23.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important legislation.